

## An Update on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

*Aloha!* This month we give you food for thought about the new transit system.

### TOP Reasons For RAIL

#### Good for MOBILITY

One train can move 300 people which equals 6 buses or 300 cars! That means one rail line equals 6 lanes of cars.

#### Good for the ENVIRONMENT

It's sustainable - rail can be powered by alternative energy like solar, wind or H-power. This means less air and water pollution and fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Good for the ECONOMY

Building the rail project will create 90,000 person years of employment or 11,000 direct and indirect jobs annually. And, building a reliable, dependable, efficient transportation system encourages healthy economic growth.

#### Good for COMMUNITIES

Rail encourages managed, orderly growth along the route. Planning where and how communities will expand means we can keep the country country.

#### Good for YOU

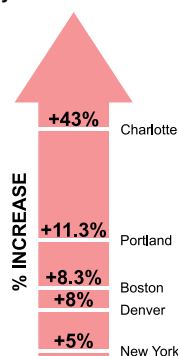
The less time you spend in traffic means the more time you have for yourself and your family and that means a better quality of life for everyone.

### Gas Prices Drive Commuters to Rail

Commuters in cities all across the country are turning to their reliable and affordable rail transit systems.

These are current ridership changes in major cities on transit rail:

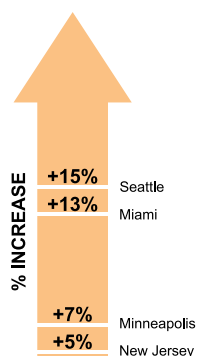
**Charlotte UP 43%**  
**Portland UP 11.3%**  
**Boston UP 8.3%**  
**Denver UP 8%**  
**New York UP 5%**



TRANSIT RAIL

Commuter rail has also seen increases – attributed to the rising cost of gas:

**Seattle UP 15%**  
**Miami UP 13%**  
**Minneapolis UP 7%**  
**New Jersey UP 5%**



COMMUTER RAIL

### Did You Know?

Rail transit stations can help stimulate private investment in the community. Here are some examples of rail systems and the actual investment their communities have seen:

**\$15 Billion to the Washington, D.C. community since 1976.**



Washington Metro

**\$4.3 Billion to the Dallas, Texas community since 1996.**



Dallas DART

**\$3 Billion to the Portland, Oregon community since the late 1970s.**



Portland MAX

**\$1 Billion to the St. Louis, Missouri community since 1993.**



St. Louis MetroLink



# Honolulu On The Move

May 2008

## Contact Us

You can reach us by calling the project hotline at 566-2299 or by submitting your comments to [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org).

Call or email us if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter or would like to be removed from our mailing list.

## City Highlight Houston, Texas



Photo of Houston Metro

Metro says ridership on its light rail system has doubled in 20 months and now totals 45,000 boardings each weekday – the number of riders forecasted for 2020. The Houston-Galveston Area Council noted in a recent report that 41 percent of these riders are new transit riders; 49 percent have a car available; 37 percent say at least two household members have driver's licenses; and 20 percent have incomes of more than \$81,000.

Source: [www.lightrailnow.org](http://www.lightrailnow.org). November 15, 2007.

## Memorable Quotes

Congressman James Oberstar (D – MN), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, visited Hawaii, took a tour of the transit corridor and received a briefing on our project. Here's what he said:

"I think this is one of the most exciting projects in the whole country. Transit is the most rapidly developing mode of transportation in the whole United States."

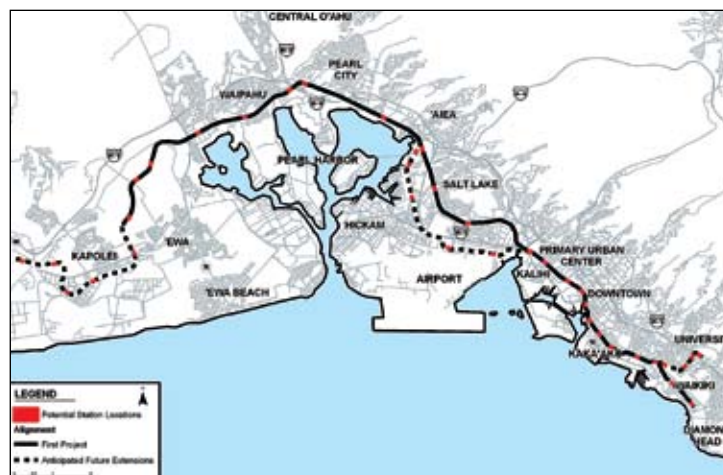
"You've got less than a mile of space between the mountains on one side and the ocean on the other. How

are you going to squeeze more lane-miles of roadway?"

"I think overall you can count on a roughly thirty, thirty-five percent contribution from the Federal Transit Administration in federal transit funds, which would play out to in the range of \$900 million. And I will be vigorously supporting the delegation and Mayor in pursuit of those funds."



James Oberstar



## Our system will be very convenient:

In 2030, 28% of the population and 46% of the employment in the corridor will be within walking distance of a transit station.